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TURKEY.

Report from Constantinople—Plague among pilgrims to Mecca—Sanitary conditions of the pilgrimage.

Doctor Post, American representative on the International Sanitary Board, reports, March 12, as follows:

REPORT ON BUBONIC PLAGUE IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE.

Bubonic plague is on the increase at Djeddah, the port of Mecca. The record thus far is as follows:

	Cases.	Deaths.
January 8-15.....	8	7
January 15-20.....	6	6
January 21-27.....	3	4
January 28-February 3.....	6	5
February 4-9.....	10	10
February 10-17.....	20	19
February 18-24.....	32	30
February 25-28.....	27	25
Total since January 8.....	112	106

When the first cases were reported great numbers of pilgrims were passing through Djeddah on their way to Mecca, and it was greatly feared that the plague would break out among them. A special meeting of the International Sanitary Board was called, and the following measures, among others, were decided upon:

- (1) To impose a five days' quarantine on arrivals from Djeddah.
- (2) To reenforce the medical staff at Djeddah and at Mecca.
- (3) To reserve a portion of the lazaretto at Djeddah for plague cases among pilgrims should such occur.
- (4) To direct the medical inspector at Djeddah to take the requisite measures for rendering hygienic the town of Djeddah, and for destroying rats and mice.
- (5) To give embarking pilgrims a thorough medical examination.
- (6) To urge the importance of a very strict and active surveillance of the pilgrims at Mecca, with a view to discovering cases of plague among them.
- (7) To send a supply of antitoxin serum to Djeddah.
- (8) To represent to the Imperial Government the importance of conveying only one body of pilgrims at a time from Mecca to Djeddah, and of having these bodies of pilgrims, while waiting to embark, encamped outside the town of Djeddah.

Up to February 24 not a single case of plague had occurred among the pilgrims, over 100,000 in number. On February 24 a Javanese pilgrim died of plague at Djeddah. Information has just been received of the death from plague of two pilgrims at Aden, on their return from Mecca. Steamers carrying hundreds of returning pilgrims have been arriving daily in Smyrna, Constantinople, and other Ottoman ports. In spite of the fact that the steamers used for pilgrim

transportation are carefully measured, in accordance with the Venetian regulations, by a special committee of the International Sanitary Board, the rules are constantly infringed and the steamers return overcrowded. It sometimes happens that hundreds of pilgrims are carried in excess of the regulation number allowed. This fact of overcrowding, and still more the unhygienic conditions prevailing at quarantine stations, where pilgrims are at times obliged to sleep on damp ground, account for a considerable mortality, chiefly from dysentery, among returning pilgrims during the voyage and after disembarking. The following instances are in point:

Steamships.	Number of pilgrims arrived at Clazomene.	Number of deaths during voyage from Djed-dah to Clazomene.
Nimieh.....	1,432	9
Angora.....	928	5
Koniah.....	891	4
Assouan.....	1,139	4

Other pilgrims died after disembarking.

At the meeting of the International Sanitary Board, held March 5, the causes of mortality among returning pilgrims were discussed. A committee was appointed to continue the careful study of the various lazarettos of the Ottoman Empire, and to submit a plan and estimates for such improvements as shall be deemed necessary.

News has been received from Camaran that the epidemic of small-pox at Salif is now at an end.

FOREIGN AND INSULAR STATISTICAL REPORTS OF COUNTRIES AND CITIES—UNTABULATED.

ALGERIA—*Algiers*.—Month of February, 1907. Estimated population, 155,000. Total number of deaths not reported. One death from diphtheria, 2 from enteric fever, 2 from smallpox, and 51 from tuberculosis reported.

AUSTRALIA—*Sydney*.—Month of January, 1907. Estimated population, 529,600. Total number of deaths, 510, including diphtheria 1, enteric fever 7, plague 1, scarlet fever 1, whooping cough 7, and 29 from phthisis pulmonalis.

BAHAMAS—*Nassau*.—Two weeks ended March 23, 1907. Estimated population, 12,656. Six deaths reported.

BRAZIL—*State of São Paulo*, including the cities of *São Paulo*, *Santos*, and *Campinas*.—Week ended February 17, 1907. Estimated population, 300,000. Total number of deaths, 186, including measles 1, whooping cough 1, plague 1, leprosy 1, enteric fever 1, and 14 from tuberculosis.